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YOU DON'T SAY...

"You're fortunate, I'm sure."

Rep. Dean Arp, R-Union to Sheila Holman, assistant secretary for the environment at the state Department of Environmental Quality after she told members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy that she had not seen the Atlantic Coast Pipeline MOU.

THE INSIDER, 3/07/18

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News Summary

Pipeline Fund

A Department of Environmental Quality assistant secretary confirmed Tuesday that she and her staff had not discussed the use of funds in the state's \$58 million Atlantic Coast Pipeline agreement with the developer -- and that she had not seen the memorandum of understanding and didn't find out about the negotiations until January. Sheila Holman was responding to questions from Rep. Dean Arp, R-Union, about the agreement between pipeline developers and the governor's office.

"(The MOU) didn't alter what we were doing because it didn't play a role in our work," Holman, assistant secretary for the environment at DEQ, said during a meeting of the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy. While she and her staff weren't involved in the MOU process, Holman

said DEQ routinely updated Gov. Roy Cooper's office on the process. "They were not reviewing our work in any way," she said.

Holman said DEQ's duty would be to oversee the mandatory mitigation projects as required under the permitting requirements, and "that's where our duties begin and end." She said any questions about overseeing voluntary projects would have to be posed to someone else who was responsible for the "other funds" since that doesn't fall under DEQ's purview. Those other funds are nearly \$58 million that were originally slated for mitigation and economic development projects, but are now going to be distributed to schools along the pipeline in eastern North Carolina.

She said the permits are not connected to the MOU, and DEQ would not be revoking permits because of the MOU or any failure to receive funds. "If however, something happens with the mitigation where we determine more mitigation is needed for whatever reason, we would take action on that front," she said. "The lack of voluntary payment would have no impact on your agency's activities or a negative impact on the state's environment, is that fair to say?" Arp asked. Holman said it would not impact the state's decision on permits. As part of those permits, DEQ had already required the developers to pay more than \$6 million for mitigation projects along the pipeline.

The voluntary funds have sparked a lot of inquiries from legislative leaders and letters between them and the governor's office. Legislative leaders have noted that committees have subpoena power, and that approach could possibly be employed to get answers to many of the questions they still have. On Tuesday after the meeting, Sen. Paul Newton, R-Cabarrus, chairman of the commission, said he has not had a discussion about subpoenas and isn't sure if his committee would be the one to issue them. (Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

Sexual Harassment

In the wake of sexual harassment allegations against Rep. Duane Hall, D-Wake, the top House Democrat says the legislature needs a way to accept confidential complaints about harassment. Jackson says his caucus met to discuss the issue long before the Hall allegations surfaced and set up a complaint procedure for issues within the Democratic caucus, and sent recommendations to House leaders.

"I'm hopeful that they are working on that," Jackson said Tuesday. "We need to have a confidential way for these women, or men, to come forward and make those complaints where they can be investigated and people can get due process." Currently, complaints must be made to the Legislative Ethics Commission and can't be filed anonymously. Jackson said that's the next step in the Hall matter if he doesn't resign. "We don't have a caucus procedure for dealing with that, so the procedure would be that the Ethics Committee here at the General Assembly, a bipartisan panel, will investigate any complaints that are made to it," Jackson said. "I'm not on that panel, couldn't tell you if a complaint has been made, and don't even know if they meet until we're back in session in May." The Ethics Commission has the power to recommend that a lawmaker be expelled or censured (a public reprimand), a recommendation that would then get a vote from the full House or Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue also called for improvements to the legislature's sexual harassment policies. "I think there needs to be very clear lines," he said Tuesday. "We need to define it using a 21st-century standard, not 18th or 19th-century standards. If I had to take a guess, we're probably at least a half a century behind where we ought to be in firm policies so that it's clear." Blue, however, stopped short of calling for Hall's resignation, although several other Senate Democrats have done so. "Frankly, I'm not versed enough on it to give you an opinion of what his position is or ought to be," he said.

Hall faces two opponents in the May Democratic primary, and he has said he wants voters to decide his political future. Asked Tuesday if he plans to endorse one of Hall's opponents, Jackson said "I do not have plans to get involved, but I certainly hope the voters of District 11 will consider the allegations in casting their votes." (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

NGA Meetings

While in Washington, D.C., Gov. Roy Cooper met last month with executives for Alibaba, a China-based e-commerce company that is often compared to Amazon. The company has been attempting to break into the American marketplace, and in 2017 at its Gateway '17 conference it was hoping to convince small businesses to expand into the Chinese market, and show that it could create one million jobs in the U.S. over five years. According to his schedule for his five days in D.C., he spent an hour with the executives on Thursday, Feb. 22. Cooper's office released the schedule Tuesday in response to a public records request from the Insider.

On Friday, Feb. 23, he met with Mary Kay Henry, president of Service Employees International Union and Leslie Frane, the organization's executive vice president, for 30 minutes. Later that day he met with Rajiv Shah, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, also for 30 minutes. On Sunday, Feb. 25, Cooper met with Brad Smith, the president of Microsoft.

Cooper was in D.C. for the National Governors Association's 2018 Winter Meeting, where he attended various sessions including discussions on the future of food and agriculture, caring for veterans and the opioid crisis. He also met with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Verma. (Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

Elections Board

Resources: [New Cooper Filing](#)

A three-judge panel should strike down in its entirety a law that combines North Carolina state elections and ethics duties into one agency, attorneys for Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday. The Democratic governor's legal motions came a day after a the panel determined that a state Supreme Court ruling issued in January only required them to throw out a small portion of the law. That provision envisioned an eight-member board -- Democrats and four Republicans -- that Cooper would appoint from lists provided by party leaders. The provisions of the law the judges decided could remain intact, according to the motions, include keeping the current executive director at her job until at least next year, and directing Republicans to serve as chairmen of county elections boards this year.

The attorneys asked the court's justices to intervene quickly and void the entire law approved last April by GOP lawmakers, because a new law changing it is about to take effect. The author of the Supreme Court's majority opinion wrote that the provisions concerning board membership and appointments, "taken in context with the other provisions of that legislation," are unconstitutional. But Daniel Smith, one of Cooper's private-sector attorneys, argued Associate Justice Sam Ervin also referred to the "totality of the circumstances" and the "totality of the limitations" imposed on Cooper's authority.

Cooper wants an elections board the way it was before December 2016, in which a majority of seats are held by members of the governor's party. "This system has worked for decades and it is the responsibility of the governor to make sure that elections are administered properly," Cooper told reporters earlier Tuesday after a meeting. "That's what the Supreme Court's held."

Another law passed by the GOP-dominated General Assembly last month, which tweaked the challenged law, is supposed to take effect March 16. It would create a ninth board member -- either a registered unaffiliated or third-party voter. Cooper also could remove any member at any time. Cooper said that doesn't fix the problem, and another of his lawyers already has indicated that the governor plans to sue over it. Cooper, however, is letting the bill with the changes become law without his signature because it contained other unrelated public school and pre-kindergarten funding provisions he wanted. Smith told the justices that Cooper and GOP lawmakers "must have clarity regarding the scope of this court's invalidation of the challenged portions" of the law before the changes take effect.

On Monday, Republican legislators praised the three-judge panel's ruling and urged Cooper not to sue again. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/06/18)

Early Voting

The latest legal wrangling over the state elections board could potentially result in limited early voting opportunities in some counties during the May primary. Earlier this week, a three-judge Superior Court panel struck down a portion of the law merging the elections and ethics boards that addressed how board members would be appointed. The court order eliminated a temporary order that had allowed county elections boards to take action with only two members because there was no mechanism for replacing resigning members.

Those 25 counties received a memo on Tuesday ordering them to cease further action on issues such as setting early voting hours and locations. "As of yesterday afternoon ... two-member boards cannot conduct business," Josh Lawson, attorney for the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, wrote to the county boards. A new law set to take effect next week includes a new process for appointing state elections board members, who could then appoint county elections boards.

But Gov. Roy Cooper has indicated he expects to fight that law in court, and on Tuesday his attorneys filed a request with the N.C. Supreme Court asking it to reject the Superior Court panel's action and instead strike down the entire elections-ethics merger law. That could mean it will take longer to settle the case and appoint a new elections board. "If the Governor chooses to initiate a new challenge or file additional proceedings, we will again seek a stay to enable your boards to act until new members are appointed," Lawson wrote.

Until that happens -- or if the courts don't allow it -- those county boards are powerless. "If your county has not adopted a one-stop plan for the May Primary, the default early voting site is the county board office," Lawson's memo says. The "default" is typically a single early voting site open only during weekday business hours and on the Saturday before the election -- far less than what many counties offer. "Board members may, however, petition the State Board to adopt a plan. If we receive any such petition, we will file the matter with the Wake Superior Court for a decision by that body." Bladen County is one of those affected because its early voting plan wasn't submitted before the court action.

Wake County Superior Court judges have already settled a number of election issues since the state board became vacant last June, including a recent decision to order a new mayoral election in the town of Sharpsburg after voting irregularities last year. The counties that have only two elections board members are Bertie, Bladen, Burke, Caldwell, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Cumberland, Davidson, Edgecombe, Gates, Guilford, Halifax, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lincoln, Montgomery, Onslow, Perquimans, Pitt, Swain, Transylvania, Vance and Wake. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

Licensing Boards

State officials are working to tighten and standardize financial disclosure requirements for occupational licensing boards. Those efforts were detailed Tuesday during a meeting of the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee. "We don't appear to be monitoring occupational licensing boards financially at all," said Sen. Andy Wells, R-Catawba and chairman of the committee.

The Occupational Licensing Boards Oversight Reporting Work Group, which includes state auditor Beth Wood, is developing a standard form for the 59 licensing boards to report their financials to the state. John Turcotte, director of the legislature's Program Evaluation Division, explained that the current reports don't clearly show the boards' staff salaries and legal fees because those expenses are listed in multiple ways. "It's almost impossible (to compare financial records) because of this problem with formatting," he said. A new form will be tested this summer, with the goal of implementing the new process in 2019. "Hopefully we'll have you a draft bill ready for the short session," Turcotte said. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

Hall Accusation

A Democratic North Carolina legislator accused of sexual misconduct is accusing the group that first reported the allegations of violating rules for nonprofit organizations. Gov. Roy Cooper and other Democratic Party leaders last week called on state Rep. Duane Hall, a Raleigh attorney, to resign from his District 11 House seat amid allegations that he tried to kiss two women without their consent, and acted inappropriately toward another woman. The allegations were first detailed in a story published by NC Policy Watch, an organization that is part of the liberal advocacy group NC Justice Center. The Policy Watch story quoted five people, some of whom were anonymous.

Hall has denied the allegations, and on Tuesday said the Justice Center and Policy Watch must follow their mission statement to work on "issues of concern to low and middle income North Carolinians" and that, by working for a year on the story about him, the group violated federal rules for nonprofits. The Justice Center is "absolutely prohibited from intervening in a political campaign for or against any candidate for an elective public office," Hall said in a statement, quoting IRS tax-filing instructions. He said Policy Watch "must explain their bloggers' coordination with other political campaigns to time the release of their story for the end of the primary filing. They discussed their yearlong work with my political opponents before publication."

Rob Schofield, editor of Policy Watch, said the organization "stands proudly behind its story, which was produced in faithful compliance with all relevant nonprofit rules and without any agenda -- personal or political -- and without any coordination whatsoever with any outside group or individual."

Ann McColl, a Raleigh-based attorney, is co-chairwoman of the board of directors at the Justice Center. She said Tuesday that the full board is scheduled to meet on Thursday and all members would have an opportunity to ask any questions they have about the Hall story and how Policy Watch handled it. "All my conversations so far give me great confidence in what the Justice Center has done with the Hall story," McColl said without further elaboration. Other board members reached have declined to comment.

Hall's statement alluded to a tweet from Ben Julen, a former Equality NC worker who was quoted in the first Policy Watch story. Julen told Policy Watch that Hall "wouldn't take no for an answer" from a woman at an event in 2016. Hall suggested that Julen had "political motivations" because Julen on Feb. 12 asked on Twitter: "Literally any Democratic woman please primary Duane Hall. It's Wake County you will win it's not like he has a leadership record [to] run on!!" (Paul A. Specht, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Moore Contributions

Rep. Rodney Moore, D-Mecklenburg, has failed to respond to repeated requests for bank records as state officials look into more than \$10,000 in unreported campaign contributions. The Charlotte lawmaker, a former Democratic House leader, has refused to turn over records despite at least eight requests from the state, elections officials said Tuesday. Officials said Tuesday they found two more political action committee contributions to Moore that the candidate failed to report. That brings to at least 19 the number of unreported contributions, which total \$10,200. Moore, who is running for a fifth term, did not respond to Observer calls and emails over two days.

The Observer reported in November that Moore had failed to report 17 PAC contributions since 2013. The figures come from a public records request with the N.C. State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement and an Observer analysis that checked dozens of PAC reports against Moore's. On Feb. 20, Moore missed the most recent deadline to disclose his bank records, according to state elections officials. He was asked at least four times by phone and four times by email or mail, including a certified letter Dec. 18, according to election officials. "We will continue to try to work with Rep. Moore to ensure his campaign committee is in compliance with North Carolina law," elections board spokesman Patrick Gannon said Tuesday.

Though elections officials routinely audit campaign reports, it's rare to seek bank records. "There's a very clear line in North Carolina of what's supposed to be reported and when it's supposed to be reported," said Jane Pinsky, director of the N.C. Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform. "And we do that so that citizens can understand from whom their elected officials are taking contributions ... You can't be someone who makes laws and then doesn't follow the laws you make."

Until November, Moore was a House Democratic whip. House Minority Leader Darren Jackson of Raleigh said Moore stepped down from leadership until questions about his finances were resolved. Last month, when Moore filed his year-end report for 2017, he reported no contributions or expenditures for the entire year. But just seven weeks earlier, on Dec. 15, CSX Transportation PAC reported giving Moore's campaign \$250. And on Dec. 1, the J.M. Family Enterprises PAC reporting giving his campaign \$500.

In November, Moore said he'd fixed some discrepancies found by elections officials but acknowledged some contributions could be unaccounted for. "I guess I'm just a bad bookkeeper or something," he told the Observer at the time. "I'm working with my treasurer to take care of it. The best thing I can do is try to work ... to clear it up." Moore said some checks may have been lost. But spokesmen for two donors, PACs representing the N.C. Farm Bureau and Coca-Cola, confirmed at the time that their checks were cashed.

Under state law, individuals can face felony charges for campaign finance violations, including signing off on a finance report that contains information the person knows isn't true. Last year former Republican state Sen. Fletcher Hartsell of Concord was sentenced to up to 18 months probation after admitting to improperly spending and reporting campaign finances. The state elections board could subpoena Moore's bank records. But there currently is no board because of a power struggle between Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and the Republican-controlled General Assembly. (Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Pittenger Endorsement

Raleigh developer John Kane is weighing in on a congressional primary down the road in the Charlotte area. Kane, a longtime Republican donor who owns North Hills and is developing a new high-rise complex in downtown Raleigh, is backing U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger in his GOP primary contest with minister Mark Harris.

Kane sent a fundraiser letter on behalf of Pittenger that was obtained by the Insider this week. "Robert is a businessman who governs in like manner," Kane wrote. "His leadership roles on the House Financial Services Committee and Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism have been impactful and exemplary. ... We have a great asset working for us in Congress. We need to re-elect Robert in his very challenging race." The letter also notes Pittenger's "97% record voting with President Trump." (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/07/18)

Hog Waste

Attorneys defending the hog industry against federal lawsuits that claim spraying liquefied animal waste over farm fields has harmed their North Carolina neighbors don't want jurors to hear about alternative methods used to dispose of the waste elsewhere. U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt and attorneys on Tuesday discussed trial details ahead of the first of what could be dozens of nuisance cases that could impact profits and processes in the country's No. 2 pork-producing state. Britt called the trials starting next month involving more than 500 neighbors of industrial-scale hog operations a "massive" legal undertaking. The predominant method of raising hogs involves closely confining hundreds of animals in warehouse-like buildings and frequently washing their wastes into collection cesspools. There, the waste is treated and the remaining liquids periodically sprayed out onto fields from movable towers.

Neighbors suing Murphy-Brown LLC, a subsidiary of Virginia-based pork giant Smithfield Foods, contend winds sometimes catch the falling droplets and coat their homes, cars and clothing with filth.

The neighbors also contend the hog operations concentrated in a handful of eastern North Carolina counties create intense smells, noise and clouds of flies that intrude on how freely they can use their own property. Lawyers defending Murphy-Brown said in a court filing that jurors shouldn't be told about alternatives to spraying for disposing animal urine and feces. For example, Midwest hog operations inject or disc hog waste directly into the soil rather than spraying it into the air to settle on the ground.

Telling jurors about pork-production technologies used outside of North Carolina would confuse them by implying that the same methods could be used at Kinlaw Farm, the Bladen County hog operation being sued by 10 neighbors in the first trial, Murphy-Brown attorneys said. The farm located 10 miles (16 kilometers) east of a massive Smithfield Foods slaughterhouse raises hogs for Murphy-Brown but is not owned by the company. "Alternative technologies outside North Carolina involve different types of farms, different climates, different topography, and different localities -- among other things -- all of which make this information of no consequence here," Raleigh-based attorney Mark Anderson wrote last week. Farmers in Iowa -- the top U.S. pork state -- and the other large Midwestern pork states store the manure and urine in deep concrete pits beneath the hog houses. The resulting "slurry" is then pumped or trucked onto fields. (Emery P. Dalesio, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/06/18)

Gun Deaths

North Carolina has reached a grim milestone: More people died from guns in 2016 than any of the previous 35 years, new federal data shows. In 2016, more than 1,400 people died from guns in North Carolina, according to the most recent data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The firearm death toll rose by 120 that year. Experts are not yet sure why the numbers are rising. But a jump in firearm-related homicides appears to have driven the increase. Homicides involving guns climbed to 558 in 2016 -- a 27 percent increase over the previous year. In the wake of the shooting that killed 17 at a Florida high school last month, lawmakers in Congress and various state legislatures are considering ways to toughen gun laws. But legislators in North Carolina appear unlikely to beef up gun laws here.

Gun deaths in North Carolina have risen significantly faster than the state's population. For every 100,000 people, about 14 died from firearms in 2016. That was the highest rate since 1997. Phil Cook, a public policy professor at Duke University who has studied guns and violent crime, said grieving families aren't the only ones affected. The rising gun carnage also increases the load on police departments, reduces property values and damages neighborhoods. "It's a concern because ... it's a public health problem," Cook said. "It's just a collection of problems we were hoping were in the rearview mirror."

The pace of gun deaths here continues to exceed the national rate, about 12 gun deaths for every 100,000 people in 2016. Gun control advocates -- including Becky Ceartas, executive director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence -- blame the state's laws. In its scorecard of state gun laws, the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives North Carolina a D-. "It's incredibly troublesome, saddening and frustrating," Ceartas says of the rising gun toll in North Carolina. "Because we know there are gun laws out there that have been proven to save lives ... We do know it's a public health crisis and it needs to be handled as one." (Ames Alexander, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Beer Prices

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross isn't worried about the impact of proposed tariffs on aluminum and steel on the price of beer. But North Carolina brewers are. "It's just a couple pennies, but those pennies add up pretty quickly," said Erik Lars Myers, founder, CEO and head brewer at Mystery Brewing in Hillsborough. "I feel like that's something a commerce secretary should know. We're going to end up having to pass that on to the consumer," Myers said.

President Donald Trump and Ross last week proposed a 25 percent tariff on imported steel and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum, contending that protection of the domestic industries in those metals is in

the country's national security interests. "I'm protecting our workers, I'm protecting our companies," Trump said Tuesday. "We cannot lose our steel industry, cannot lose our aluminum industry." Many Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, have come out against the tariffs as misguided, overly broad and counterproductive.

Brewers use aluminum for cans and steel for nearly everything else in the beer-making process -- including tanks for fermenting and kegs for storing. "It is one more thing that keeps me up at night," said Sean Lily Wilson, founder of Fullsteam Brewery in Durham, a mid-sized brewery that Wilson says would be affected more than either larger-scale or small niche breweries. "We're neither the local that relies only on in-house tavern sales and a neighborhood setting. Nor are we manufacturers of such scale that we can absorb these costs through efficiencies."

Ross, who's worth about \$700 million, has defended the tariffs, arguing that the impact on consumers will be tiny and negligible. MillerCoors, the second largest U.S. brewing company, said "American workers and American consumers will suffer as a result of this misguided tariff" and warned of "job losses across the beer industry."

Mystery cans close to 500,000 beers per year, Myers said. He said lids for each can cost 2.4 cents, a number he knows by heart because he shops for the best deal he can find knowing the difference between 2.4 cents and 3 cents "makes a huge difference to me over the course of 100,000 cans." (Brian Murphy, McClatchy DC, 3/06/18)

Tax Revenues

Tax money stuffed North Carolina's coffers as the calendar turned to 2018, but that alone doesn't mean the state will have a significant surplus when the fiscal year ends in June. State Budget Director Charlie Perusse says individuals paid \$165 million more in estimated tax payments during December and January than previously projected. Perusse's office believes the increase occurred largely because people overpaid estimated state taxes around the new year to deduct more on 2017 federal income tax returns before the federal tax overhaul law begins with 2018 returns. Perusse says stock market performance also contributed to the uptick. Perusse expects the payment surge to mean lower payments and higher refunds in April. That could eat away revenue growth. Through December, state tax collections were basically even with projections. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/06/18)

Schools Hacking

North Carolina's public schools are facing serious, ongoing cybersecurity threats from professional hackers that are costing time and money and putting personal information at risk, a consultant warned state lawmakers on Tuesday. Most North Carolina school districts and charter schools aren't prepared to deal with massive breaches and intrusions into their computer systems, according to Phil Emer, director of technology planning and policy at N.C. State's Friday Institute For Educational Innovation. Emer told lawmakers that schools are facing threats such as software attacks designed to shut down systems unless a ransom is paid, malicious software trying to steal information off databases and email phishing scams designed to get sensitive information.

"No matter how much money we spend or what we do, we'll never be able to protect everybody 100 percent," Emer told members of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. "The attacks are changing every day. The phishing schemes are getting more directed. But we can do as good a job as possible to mitigate." Cybercriminals have initiated a number of highly publicized security breaches on multiple commercial sites. But in October, the U.S. Department of Education issued a warning about a new threat in which criminals are seeking to extort money from school districts and other educational institutions on the threat of releasing sensitive data from student records.

In last year's state budget, lawmakers included \$200,000 a year to help deal with the issue of school cybersecurity. The Friday Institute was tasked with working with the State Board of Education and the state Department of Public Instruction on the issue. Emer said steps have been taken to help

school districts and charter schools improve their cybersecurity. But he said that in recent months four North Carolina school districts suffered attacks in which malicious software entered their computer systems. It's not cheap addressing the problems, according to Emer. He said the Rockingham County school system paid \$314,000 to fix its computer systems after they became infected.

With schools under threat, Sen. Ronald Rabin, R-Harnett, said someone needs to determine who has responsibility for addressing cybersecurity. "We have to decide if it's serious enough to attack," he said. "If it is, someone has to be responsible." (T. Keung Hui, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Workforce Training

In a Tuesday visit to Charlotte, Gov. Roy Cooper said that having a well-trained and high-tech workforce is his administration's number one priority. Cooper made the statement during a tour of Siemens Energy, where he met Central Piedmont Community College students working as apprentices. During his tour of the Siemens plant, Cooper said the biggest challenge he faces when courting new businesses to North Carolina is convincing them that the state has the high-tech workforce they need. "I go out and try to sell North Carolina all over the world," Cooper said. "We're a great state to come to, but they're not going to come unless we have a well-prepared workforce." Cooper called for businesses and educators to work closer together so students will have a curriculum that's in line with job needs of the future.

Cooper also said he thinks the Republican National Convention would give Charlotte -- and the state -- a strong economic boost. City officials are looking into putting in a bid to host the 2020 RNC convention, and Cooper said he supports the idea. When asked if he thinks the giant Confederate flags that members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans are putting up on private property could hurt a bid for the convention, or deter companies from coming to North Carolina -- like House Bill 2 did -- Cooper said the state needs to project a message of welcome and tolerance. "Diversity is our strength," he said. "We need to do things that don't project intolerance and continue to work together to make sure that we send the message that we're welcoming. It's not just the right thing to do, but it's good for our economy." (Gwendolyn Glenn, WFAE RADIO, 3/06/18)

Prison Report

The feds came in just about a month after the attacks at Pasquotank prison in Elizabeth City, Hampton Roads, Va., TV station WVEC reports. The federal investigators interviewed staff, reviewed documents and observed operations. The outcome is grim -- the report said if changes aren't made, officials should reduce the inmate population and suspend programs at the prison. There were "strong emotions" and tears shed as the National Institute of Corrections team interviewed staff at the Pasquotank prison. "It's a damning report, a shocking report," Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said.

The 78-page report is supposed to help the Department of Public Safety address issues in the aftermath of October's tragedy, which cost the lives of four people. The prison is in Rep. Steinburg's district. When he was asked if it is safe for corrections officers to work in North Carolina prisons, he said no. "It is not and I can say that without any reservation at all," he said. The report goes into detail about inmates issuing tools to other inmates. The day before the prison break attempt one inmate distributed seven tools, including scissors and hammers. 13News Now reported 911 calls reveal prisoners beat and stabbed employees with those tools.

An absence of personal safety equipment was highlighted in the report. It claimed the prison had blind spots because of a lack of monitoring of security cameras. Correction Enterprises employees, who run the sewing plant at the heart of the escape attempt, are not required to have any basic security training. "We need to see what are the failures, what led to this, is this a problem of management," Steinburg asked.

Public Safety officials said they've taken action to correct the situation -- they've closed the sewing

plant, suspended prison leaders, ordered stab-resistant shirts and increased training. But, what has caused a lot of these lapses, according to the report, is a staffing vacancy rate of 25 percent at the prison. That led to staff "burnout, complacency, and taking of shortcuts."

"If we don't get this under control; if we don't make a serious attempt at fixing this and fixing it once and for all, there are going to be, sadly, more murders that are going to take place in these prisons," Steinburg said. On March 15, one of the NIC team members will travel to the capitol to answer questions from the Joint Legislative Public Safety Oversight Committee, on which Steinburg sits. (Laura Geller, WVEC NEWS, 3/05/18)

Offshore Drilling

The economic risks of offshore drilling and seismic exploration more than offset the potential awards, the secretary of North Carolina's environmental agency told Onslow County officials Tuesday. "A danger to our economy is more important or just as important in terms of national security than the few benefits that oil might produce," said Michael Regan, with the Department of Environmental Quality.

Regan has been touring coastal communities throughout North Carolina in recent weeks, spreading the message that he, Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein are staunchly opposed to the Trump Administration's plan to open the North Carolina coast to offshore drilling in its 2019-2024 plan. North Topsail Beach, Onslow County and Surf City officials were among those to attend Tuesday's meeting, where Regan urged them to weigh in before this round of public comments on the plan ends on Friday.

Royce Bennett, an Onslow County commissioner, asked Regan about a 2013 N.C. State University study that estimated offshore production would result in 17,000 jobs and \$1.9 billion annually once the necessary infrastructure was built out, along with roughly \$83 million in annual damage to coastal communities from spills. "That's a pretty significant positive impact, so I'm wondering if you all have seen that," said Bennett, a Republican.

While he is familiar with the N.C. State study, Regan said, he believes the costs potentially incurred on the coast outweigh the estimated benefits. "That's playing Russian roulette with all of the people along the coast," Regan said, "with the assumption that there is a price tag on our coast and on our precious natural resources."

Teresa Batts, a Surf City Councilwoman, raised concerns about how a spill would impact tourism and fishing economies. "Imagining what this could do -- they would be totally devastated and so many would lose jobs," Batts said. Surf City is one of about three dozen North Carolina municipalities to pass a resolution opposing offshore exploration and seismic testing, and Mayor Doug Medlin, a blue dog Democrat, has been a vocal opponent. Neither North Topsail Beach nor Onslow County has passed a resolution regarding offshore exploration. (Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 3/06/18)

Filed

Eddie Gallimore has filed to run for the N.C. Senate District 29 seat representing Davidson and Montgomery counties. In a news release, Gallimore said he is a Davidson County native. "I am the only consistent conservative in this race and the only candidate who is a lifelong Republican. I was a strong supporter of the marriage amendment. I am a timeless advocate for the second amendment and a voice for lower taxes and less government regulations. I know a man should use the men's restroom and that this country was built on faith in God." Gallimore said in the release. Gallimore is a graduate of Central Davidson Senior High School. He attended Davidson County Community College and has a degree in pre-science. He owns a real estate, construction and grading business and is a certified concealed carry handgun instructor. (THE (Lexington) DISPATCH, 3/06/18)

School Counselors

In the aftermath of the deadly school shooting in Florida, Wake County commissioners say the local school system needs more social workers, guidance counselors and psychologists. But they disagree about whether to spend more money. "Students can have challenges like anyone else, and they sometimes bring to school the problems they're encountering at home," said Commissioner Matt Calabria. "Teachers and staff do a great job of helping our kids, but they're often asked to do a number of jobs all at once. Having more trained and qualified mental health professionals would go a long way toward helping students overcome their challenges, and I expect it would improve academic performance as well."

Last November, after rounds of discussions between the county and schools, commissioners offered school leaders \$3.5 million for more social workers and counselors and asked the schools to match that amount. School leaders were reluctant, partly because of the required match but also because they worried that the money would be a one-time appropriation. In December, commissioners agreed informally to back off the match requirement, though they did not vote to do so, Calabria said. As for a one-time outlay, "because we were talking about a midyear appropriation, we were technically considering 'one-time' money," he said. "But the commissioners working on this had the explicit hope that this would be rolled into a recurring allocation if we moved forward. No one wanted to fund the hiring of new folks only for the money to run out a few months later." For Monika Johnson-Hostler, the school board's chairwoman, the county's November offer was a non-starter. "We weren't willing to match it," she said, adding that she did not know if the county communicated its December change of heart to the superintendent's staff.

National groups recommend having one counselor and one social worker for every 250 students. The ratio in Wake is one social worker for every 1,860 students and one counselor for every 630 elementary school students, 372 middle school students and 393 high school students. Some commissioners say it's best to now think in terms of the next budget year, which begins July 1. (Scott Bolejack, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Armed Teachers

In the wake of last month's Florida school shooting, the N.C. House has established a bipartisan Select Committee on School Safety. Whoever wins the race for the seat in N.C. House District 7, which is made up of five precincts in southern Nash County and all of Franklin County, could end up on that committee. The incumbent already has been appointed.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson, D-Franklin, will face in November's general election the winner of the May primary between Republicans Lisa Barnes and Glen Bradley. Barnes said she is glad N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore recently announced the select committee. "This is an important first step to protecting our schools," Barnes said. "When I'm elected, I look forward to working with Speaker Moore and the House to address our children's safety."

Richardson said she's looking forward to working with the newly formed committee to find bipartisan solutions. "I believe that we need to adopt a multi-faceted approach, including more thorough background checks on gun purchasers and better mental health services," Richardson said. Richardson, a retired educator, said she doesn't support allowing teachers to carry concealed firearms on campus. "As a former educator, I know that our teachers already have enough on their plates without having to worry about carrying weapons in the classroom," Richardson said. "We need to focus on supporting our teachers by providing adequate funding and resources -- not firearms."

Barnes, a Nash County commissioner, said she wouldn't support teachers carrying firearms at school either. "Although I have my concealed carry permit and support Second Amendment rights, I do not believe allowing teachers to carry concealed firearms on school grounds is the best solution to the school shooting crisis," Barnes said. "Teachers should focus on education." (Lindell John Kay, THE ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 3/06/18)

Opioid Hunt

Cities and towns across the United States have stepped up efforts to combat opioid abuse, from equipping police officers with overdose-reversal kits to setting up syringe exchange programs. Cary is taking a new approach: Test the wastewater to identify which drugs people are using and which neighborhoods have the most opioid users. The western Wake County community is one of four municipalities across the country that will receive \$100,000 in grant funding and a chance to win as much as \$5 million in Bloomberg Philanthropies' U.S. Mayors Challenge. Cary will use the money to set up a system to test the wastewater from several clusters of about 5,000 people. The town will then make the data available to outside researchers for analysis. "By identifying an area that has 5,000 or so people and capturing the wastewater there, we can add demographic indicators -- socio-economic, age and land use -- to create a persona of that area," said Deputy Town Manager Mike Bajorek. After researchers analyze the results, the town could decide to set up new programs to combat opioid use, and continued testing could provide insight into how effective the programs are. (Thomas Goldsmith, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Panthers Sale

After a relatively quiet two months since the Carolina Panthers went up for sale, the process could soon pick up, and the team could choose its buyer within the next month. March is going to be "the action month" in the sale process, a source familiar with the matter told the Charlotte Observer. That means the names of a few more serious bidders could also emerge in the coming weeks as the process unfolds. Bidders are considered "serious" if they can afford to buy the team outright, and the NFL franchise could sell for between \$2.3 billion and \$2.8 billion, experts say. A winning bid could be selected as early as the end of this month or early next month, according to the source, who asked not to be named since the process is ongoing. That scenario would mean NFL team owners would vote to approve the sale during their May 21-23 meetings in Atlanta. Before that time, the purchase agreement will have to be negotiated and the league will have to conduct an extensive background check on the frontrunner. Those processes can happen concurrently. (Katherine Peralta and Joseph Person, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

NC Inventions

North Carolina came up with a long list of accomplishments as part of its pitch to Amazon to lure the company's second headquarters. But one of those "firsts" requires a big asterisk, at least. Turns out the iconic computer reboot command ctrl+alt+delete wasn't invented in Research Triangle Park as the state advertised. But its inventor did move to RTP about 15 years later, if that counts. The boast over ownership of the "three-fingered salute" was plastered on the sides of Seattle buses along with other firsts late last year in hopes of getting Amazon's attention. The campaign was put together by the Charlotte firm, Mythic, the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C.

A recent News & Observer story about the campaign caught the attention of a former co-worker, who contacted The N&O over the weekend to say the command was invented in Boca Raton, Fla., where a small team had developed the personal computer for IBM in 1981. The inventor, David Bradley followed IBM to RTP in the mid-1990s, where he worked until he retired in 2004. He also taught at N.C. State University. Reached by email on Monday, Bradley confirmed he invented the command in 1981 in Boca Raton. He was good-natured about the misplaced credit while he threw in a dig at another of North Carolina's firsts. "But if NC is going to claim First in Flight (I grew up in Ohio) they can't likewise claim C-A-D," Bradley replied in an email, referring to the acronym for the command. (Craig Jarvis, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/05/18)

Russian Monument

An Elizabeth City businessman said Monday he's willing to offer part of his property to house the Russian monument that the Elizabeth City City Council rejected last week. David Twiford, CEO of Twiford Funeral Homes, said Monday he would offer a portion of the funeral home's lot for the large, bronze monument. The monument would be far too large to go at the veterans' park already at the funeral home, he explained, so he proposed using the corner of his lot at the intersection of Grice and McMorrine streets. Twiford's offer comes on the heels of the city council voting 5-3 against an

agreement for the monument on Feb. 26. Councilor Johnnie Walton was most outspoken against the monument, saying he'd be "embarrassed" to accept it from Russia, whom he called "the hacking government" in reference to U.S. intelligence agencies finding it meddled in the 2016 presidential election. Other councilors cited public opposition or reservations about the agreement itself. Twiford said Monday he supports the monument because it honors veterans, and a time when Russians were American allies. He also said the military veterans he's spoken with so far -- he hasn't discussed the matter with American Legion or Veterans of Foreign War posts, he qualified -- have been in support of the monument. (Jon Hawley, THE (Elizabeth City) DAILY ADVANCE, 3/06/18)

Shelter Requirement

Starting next year, High Point dog owners could face fines of up to \$500 if they don't provide adequate shelter for their pets, under an ordinance unanimously adopted by the City Council Monday. When the law takes effect in March 2019, dogs left outside by their owners must be provided a shelter that's fully enclosed on at least three sides, with a roof and solid floor. Police will begin issuing citations in September 2019 under the new ordinance, beginning at \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for a second offense and escalating to \$500 for third and subsequent offenses, which can also bring a misdemeanor criminal charge. The ordinance was adopted after a local nonprofit called Project BARK, which stands for Bringing Animals Relief and Kindness, asked the city to take action to protect dogs exposed to the elements. "This was prompted by our seeing some dogs left in wire cages, which some owners consider shelter, and some dogs in crates so small they couldn't stand up," said Libby Scandale, the founder of the group. "(The law) will have significant reach." The city will implement the law gradually, beginning with a one-year "education phase," following by a six-month grace period in which offenders will receive a warning. (Pat Kimbrough, HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE, 3/06/18)

Indicted

A Bladen County commissioner was indicted on a charge of misdemeanor child abuse, according to court documents. Ashley Smith Trivette of White Lake was indicted on the charge by a Brunswick County grand jury on Feb. 26 and served the indictment on March 2. According to court documents, the alleged offense occurred on Dec. 6, 2017. No other details about the alleged offense have been released. Her next court date on the misdemeanor child abuse charge is April 10. Trivette was previously arrested on Oct. 6, 2017, and charged with driving while impaired in Brunswick County. Trivette's DWI charge is still pending in Brunswick County Superior Court. Trivette was elected as the District 3 commissioner in Bladen County in 2016. (WECT NEWS, 3/06/18)

Amazon Visits

Amazon officials are visiting all 20 sites that are competing to land its second headquarters, touring three of them in the D.C. area last week but apparently not swinging by North Carolina while they were in the neighborhood. The Triangle is among the finalists and is the only North Carolina region to make the first cut. Triangle officials who commented this week said they have heard nothing about meeting Amazon representatives. The Washington Post reported that Amazon representatives visited northern Virginia, Washington and Montgomery County in Maryland, citing named and unnamed sources, over the course of the week.

Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane said she hadn't heard of any upcoming meetings with Amazon officials. Tom Bonfield, Durham's city manager, said in an email, "The City has not received any updated information on any further contact with Amazon and the regional submittal." Geoff Durham, president of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, said he couldn't comment on discussions because of the "highly competitive nature of this project." A spokesman for North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper also declined to comment because it was an active economic development project. Officials with the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and Wake County Economic Development could not be reached for comment. (Craig Jarvis and Zachery Eanes, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Greensboro Parking Deck

Greensboro said Monday afternoon it will tear down a former salon on February One Place to make way for a \$30 million parking deck. The building is near an easement owned by Cone Denim Entertainment Center, currently the subject of a legal dispute between the downtown venue and the city. The city wants to seize the easement by eminent domain. Cone Denim says losing the easement means tour buses wouldn't have access to the backstage area for unloading. Without that easement, the venue's owners say the business will collapse. Cone Denim wants a judge to prevent the city from seizing that alleyway, which is about 100 feet from the salon. The city said in a press release that workers will build a safety fence around the property.

On Monday, city spokesman Jake Keys said the city has agreed to wait for the judge's ruling before beginning construction. Keys said the city notified Special Superior Court Judge Anderson Cromer and Cone Denim's attorney about the work. The demolition won't impact the venue's access to the easement, Keys said. In December, the City Council voted to spend up to \$30 million on the 850-space deck. (Margaret Moffett, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 3/06/18)

Daimler Incentives

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners on Monday approved a second amendment to a five-year grant for Daimler Trucks North America. The grant is for expansion at Freightliner's Cleveland manufacturing plant, providing the company a 75 percent tax incentive for its \$26 million capital investment. "We're looking at a \$26 million investment in Rowan County and, of course, the opportunity to support one of our valuable, existing employers," said Scott Shelton, vice president of operations with the Rowan County Economic Development Commission. Shelton said the incentive agreement has been in the works since 2009 when the company proposed a \$15.9 million investment in a new military truck line. A revaluation would put the company's tax base lower than at the start of the grant term, meaning no incentive was ever paid for that project.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the amendment during Monday's meeting, following comments from two Daimler executives: Henning Bruns, Freightliner's head of operations, and David Trebing, Daimler's state and local relations director. The amendment moved the grant term to Jan. 1, 2018, allowing the company to capture the 75 percent tax incentive for \$8 million the first year, then for \$26 million in the following years: \$39,750 and \$129,188 per year, respectively. (Andie Foley, THE SALISBURY POST, 3/06/18)

Marine Museum

The magic number is 24 for the Museum of the Marine. According to Ashley Danielson, executive director of the nonprofit, she is giving herself 24 months to complete Phase II, with the goal of raising \$28 million. After joining the organization in November 2016, Danielson has been networking with community members to secure donations. "We have the designs -- there's nothing stopping us now," Danielson said of the 18-year effort. The remaining funds raised will go toward the endowment and operational costs. "It's not enough to build it, we have to keep the doors open," Danielson said. Planning for the museum began in 1999, with the first ground-breaking and Phase I completed in 2016. Behind the scenes, CMJW of Winston-Salem provided the architectural designs and Pro Construction of Jacksonville is the contractor. Once the funds, a total of \$28 million are raised to build the museum and begin an operating endowment, Phase II will be complete. Of the \$28 million, only \$16 million will go to the museum site. The remaining funds will support the artifacts and operating costs, with \$9 million toward the artifacts and \$3 million toward the operational budget. (Kelsey Stiglitz, THE (Jacksonville, NC) DAILY NEWS, 3/05/18)

Deaths

Walter Williams, a one-time teacher who later made a fortune selling gasoline then gave millions of it to East Carolina University and Pitt Community College, died early Monday. He was 88. Williams started his career as an educator before working with his brother in the fuel business and later founding Trade Oil Co. He is considered an iconic supporter of ECU, his alma mater, and later in life adopted PCC. Buildings on both campuses bear his name. Friends on Monday remembered Williams as a man always willing to share his fortune to help others. U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., was one

of Williams' students. "He was one of those teachers who you knew was serious about helping you learn but he could smile too," Jones said. "He always seemed to be a man who had time for you. He always seemed to be a man willing to share his good fortune with others to improve their situation." (Ginger Livingston, THE (Greenville) DAILY REFLECTOR, 3/05/18)

N.C. 12 Flooding

North Carolina road crews worked Monday and Tuesday pushing sand off of N.C. 12 to reopen the only highway on North Carolina's Outer Banks. The N.C. Department of Transportation said Tuesday that N.C. Highway 12 is open for travel from the Bonner Bridge to Rodanthe. A weekend nor'easter combined with full-moon high tides powered the ocean through dunes more than 10 feet tall, flooding the pavement and leaving a deposit of sand several inches thick. The road has been impassable since Sunday. "Yeah, that's how bad this storm was," said Tim Hass, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Transportation. The road was expected to open by 6:30 p.m. Tuesday if there is no structural damage to N.C. 12, Hass said. (Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/06/18)

ECU Chancellor Residence

The ECU Foundation announced Monday that it completed the purchase of a home in the exclusive Star Hill Farm neighborhood of Greenville to be used as the chancellor's residence. The 8,500-square-foot home on 5.2 acres at 3100 Karibblue Lane was purchased for \$1.3 million, according to Chris Dyba, ECU vice chancellor for development and president of the private ECU Foundation. It was designed by architect William Harvey. The new residence is about 5.5 miles from the current residence, which is located across the street from the entrance to Chancellor's Way in the center of the main campus. "The ECU Foundation is excited to have acquired this wonderful property," Dyba said. David Fisher, chairman of the ECU Foundation also commented on the purchase, "I am pleased that the ECU Foundation is in a position to help our university by purchasing this house," Fisher said. "This has been a multi-year plan that is best for ECU and Greenville." (Michael Abramowitz, THE (Greenville) DAILY REFLECTOR, 3/05/18)

Fontana Dam

N.C. 28 in northern Graham County has reopened after being closed for more than two months. Workers removed 1,000 dump truck loads of rock and soil that slid onto the road in December or that came down as part of work to stabilize the slope about 6 miles east of Fontana Village Resort. A series of slides that began Dec. 14 blocked the road. Work began Dec. 22, and the road reopened Friday after workers repaved the section in the slide area. The road is lightly used in winter but gets more traffic in warmer months. It provides access from the east to the resort, Tennessee Valley Authority's Fontana Dam, parts of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and a curvy section of U.S. 129 called Tail of the Dragon that is popular with motorcycle riders. "We are delighted to have it open again so quickly after such a large slide," said Ted Adams construction engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division 14. "It's kind of unbelievable how much work they were able to accomplish in such a short amount of time and under such cold and wet conditions." (Mark Barrett, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 3/06/18)

Beach Parking

The Currituck Board of Commissioners voted 5-1 Monday to require parking permits during the height of the summer season for the off-road section of the county's beaches. The vote was a repeat of the outcome of a Feb. 19 vote on the issue, with Commissioner Mike Hall of Moyock again saying "nay" to the proposal. "We're not here to discourage day-trippers," Hall said prior to Monday's vote. "We have other beaches; we have a lot of parking areas; we've added places where you can find out what's available for you to go visit," he said. "But I think we need to take a chance to see if these other options are working," he added. However, he commended county staff and the board for the work that was put into the ordinance. The rest of the board apparently disagreed with Hall, with some pointing out that safety on the northern beaches is a topic that has been discussed for years.

"Yes, we need to start," Commissioner Mike Payment said, adding that the ordinance could be changed or tweaked as needed. (Dee Langston, THE OUTER BANKS VOICE, 3/06/18)

Contaminated Cannabis Oil

State health officials issued an advisory Tuesday warning residents of a "potentially contaminated cannabidiol oil" that has caused a recent spike in hospital emergency room visits. Along with being consumed as an oil, a similar product has been found in electronic cigarettes and vaporizing pens, officials with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services said in a news release. (Thomas McDonald, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/06/18)

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Wednesday, March 7

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance, 544 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Full Meeting, 1027/1128 LB

Thursday, March 8

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, 544 LOB.
- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.

Tuesday March 13

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Division of Local School Administrative Units (2017), 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium.

Thursday, March 15

- **9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.**
- **9:30 a.m. | The Committee on Access to Healthcare in Rural North Carolina (LRC)(2017), Columbus Regional Healthcare System.**
- 10 a.m. | The Committee on Private Process Servers (LRC)(2017), 423 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform (2017), 544 LOB.

Monday, March 19

- 2 p.m. | House Select Committee on Disaster Relief, 544 LOB.

Monday, March 26

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.

Wednesday, March 28

- 12 p.m. | The Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (LRC)(2017), 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | House Select Committee on Implementation of Building Code Regulatory Reform, 1228/1327 LB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Wednesday, March 7

- 10 a.m. | The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission meets, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, March 8

- **9:30 a.m. | The UNC System University Funding Model Task Force, Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill.**
- **1 p.m. | The UNC System Task Force on the Size, Scope, and Purpose meets, Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development, Chapel Hill.**
- **2:30 p.m. | The UNC System Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance meets, Room 128 of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development, Chapel Hill.**
- 6:30 p.m. | The Board of Dental Examiners holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 2000 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 160, Morrisville.

Friday, March 9

- **1 p.m. | The State Board of Proprietary Schools meets, North Carolina Community College System Office, 200 W. Jones St., Raleigh.**

Tuesday, March 13

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Building Code Council holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Albemarle Building, 325 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 12:30 p.m. | The N.C. Pesticide Board meets, Gov. James Martin Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh.
- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a public hearing on proposed shellfish leases in Carteret County, N.C Division of Marine Fisheries' Central District Office, 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City.

Thursday, March 15

- **10 a.m. | The Rules Review Commission meets, 1711 New Hope Church Rd., Raleigh.**

Monday, March 19

- 11 a.m. | The Board of Occupational Therapy holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wells Fargo Capital Center, 13th Floor Conference Room, 150 Fayetteville St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, March 20

- **8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development and Communications Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via conference call. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, 919-821-9573.**
- **10 a.m. | The Board of Directors Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.**

Friday, April 6

- 10:30 a.m. | The state Division of Employment Security holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, Room A-502, 700 Wade Ave., Raleigh.

Wednesday, April 18

- 10 a.m. | The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission meets, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh.

Tuesday, April 24

- 9 a.m. | The state Appraisal Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Appraisal Board, 5830 Six Forks Road, Raleigh.

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in RED**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Friday, March 23

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, March 12

- Staff Conference
- 1 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1149 ...Complaint of Fresh Air XXIV, LLC, Fresh Air XXIII LLC and Fresh Air XXXVIII, LLC, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, March 19

- Staff Conference

Monday, March 26

- Staff Conference

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Thursday, March 8

- 9 a.m. | NC Aquaculture Development Conference, 203 S. Front St., New Bern.

Monday, March 12

- 1 p.m. | NC Local Catch Summit, Southport Community Building, 223 East Bay St., Southport.

Wednesday, March 14

- 7:30 a.m. | NC Water Resources Research Institute (UNC System) Annual Conference, Jane S. McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St., Raleigh.

Monday, March 19

- TBD | The N.C. Chamber hold annual meeting, Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, 4500 Marriott Dr, Raleigh.

Monday, June 11

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor begins, local county Board of Elections.

Monday, June 18

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices begins, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, June 29

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices ends, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, July 6

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor ends, local county Board of Elections.

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